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Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Tammam **Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations: financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the question of the support account under this item at its 3rd, 5th and 10th meetings, on 5, 7 and 19 October 1998. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/52/SR.3, 5 and 10).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations (A/52/837 and Corr.1) and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/52/892 and A/53/418).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/52/L.9

4. At the 10th meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Australia, Vice-Chairman of the Committee and coordinator of informal consultations on this question, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.5/53/L.9) entitled "Support account for peacekeeping operations" and orally revised it as follows:

98-31215 (E) 201098

(a) In operative paragraph 7, the words "and referred to" were replaced by the words "referred to";

(b) In operative paragraph 10, the words "those and the recent resolutions" were replaced by the words "these and the current resolutions".

5. At the same meeting the representative of Cuba requested that the words "taking into account" in operative paragraph 7 be replaced by the words "taking up". The coordinator proposed, and the representative of Cuba agreed, that the words "taking into account" be replaced by the word "address".

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (A/C.5/53/L.9) as orally revised, without a vote (see para. 8).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Austria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Japan, Canada, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, New Zealand, India and Cuba (see A/C.5/53/SR.10).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Support account for peacekeeping operations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/258 of 3 May 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 48/226 A of 23 December 1993, 48/226 B of 5 April 1994, 48/226 C of 29 July 1994, 49/250 of 20 July 1995, 50/11 of 2 November 1995, 50/221 A of 11 April 1996, 50/221 B of 7 June 1996, 51/226 of 3 April 1997, 51/239 A of 17 June 1997, 51/239 B of 15 September 1997, 51/243 of 15 September 1997 and 52/220 of 22 December 1997 and its decisions 48/489 of 8 July 1994, 49/469 of 23 December 1994 and 50/473 of 23 December 1995,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the support account for peacekeeping operations[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Reaffirming the need to continue to improve the administrative and financial management of peacekeeping operations,

Recognizing the need for adequate support during all phases of peacekeeping operations, including the liquidation and termination phases,

1. *Reaffirms* its resolutions 52/234 and 52/248, both of 26 June 1998;

2. *Notes with deep concern* the observations contained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[3] to the effect that little had been done to meet the explicit concerns of the Committee concerning the quality of information provided by the Secretary-General and that the lack of a reply to requests for clarification or additional information in particular areas had affected a specific recommendation of the Committee;

[1] A/52/837 and Corr.1.

[2] A/52/892 and A/53/418.

[3] A/53/418.

3. *Further notes with concern* that the extension of the deadline for the submission of applications for the replacement of type II gratis personnel has resulted in cases of differential treatment among Member States;

4. *Takes note* of the commitment and assurances by the Secretary-General that the recruitment process for the replacement of type II gratis personnel, including those in the two international tribunals, will be completed by 28 February 1999, in accordance with resolutions 52/234 and 52/248;

5. *Reaffirms* its decision contained in paragraph 16 of its resolution 52/248 to approve 400 support account-funded temporary posts for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, when determining the allocation of the 400 support account-funded temporary posts, including the six additional posts, to take into account the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to include in his support account submission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000 a comprehensive review of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, addressing particularly the differences between the functional responsibilities of a rapidly deployable mission headquarters and those of the Mission Planning Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and further to develop the concept for its employment during the initial phase of a new peacekeeping operation, as mentioned by the Special Committee for Peacekeeping Operations in paragraph 101 of its report[4] referred to by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report,[3] and address the issues raised and comments and observations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee;

8. *Decides* to establish, within the level of the 400 support account-funded temporary posts approved for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999, two civilian posts at the P-4 level (one Humanitarian Affairs Officer and one Civilian Police Officer) for a rapidly deployable mission headquarters, and to revert to the issue of the other proposed positions in the context of its consideration of the information requested in paragraph 7 above;

9. *Notes* the observations contained in paragraph 21 of the report of the Advisory Committee[3] and decides to establish one post at the P-4 level for the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

10. *Regrets* that a comprehensive review of the issues raised in its resolutions 50/221, 51/239 and 52/248 has not been carried out, and requests the Secretary-General, in the context of his support account submission for the period from 1 July 1999 to 30 June 2000, to give a detailed account of the implementation of these and the current resolutions, including the revised structures of those Departments involved in backstopping peacekeeping operations, redeployment, duplication, overlap, fragmentation, the evolution in peacekeeping trends, changes in workload, and other issues raised by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in paragraphs 8, 15, 27, 34, 35 and 41 of its report,[3] and to report to the General Assembly thereon.

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[4] A/53/127.